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**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for fabricating a sensor array having a plurality of pixels, each pixel including an electronic processing circuit having a sensor input (24) for coupling a sensor element to the electronic processing circuit, the sensor array  
5 further having a plurality of terminal nodes for external connection to respective electronic processing circuits of multiple pixels of power, I/O and control connections, the method comprising:

integrating the electronic processing circuits (25, 26) on a wafer (20) so as to form an integrated circuit having at least one array of said electronic processing  
10 circuits with the sensor inputs and the terminal nodes being accessible from a first surface of the wafer;

in respect of each pixel, providing an electrically conductive via (31) through the wafer (20) extending from the respective sensor input (24) to a second surface (28) of the wafer opposite the first surface;

- 15 depositing sensor material on the second surface of the wafer so that an unexposed surface thereof forms multiple electrodes each in registration with a corresponding one of the electrically conductive vias.

2. A method for fabricating a sensor array having a plurality of pixels, each pixel including an electronic processing circuit having a sensor input (24) for  
20 coupling a sensor element to the electronic processing circuit, the sensor array further having a plurality of terminal nodes for external connection to respective electronic processing circuits of multiple pixels of power, I/O and control connections, the method comprising:

integrating the electronic processing circuits (25, 26) on a wafer (20) so as to  
25 form an integrated circuit having at least one array of said electronic processing circuits with the sensor inputs being accessible from a first surface of the wafer;

providing a plurality of electrically conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20) extending to a second surface (28) of the wafer opposite the first surface, each

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of said electrically conductive vias (31) being in registration with a respective terminal node in the sensor array; and

depositing sensor material on the first surface of the wafer so that an unexposed surface thereof forms multiple electrodes each in registration with the respective sensor input of a corresponding electronic processing circuit.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, further including:

forming on the second surface of the wafer a plurality of metallized terminal pads (43) each in ohmic contact with a respective one of the terminal nodes.

4. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the integrated circuit includes multiple arrays of pixels and there is further included:

dividing the integrated circuit into discrete sensor arrays.

5. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, further including:

assembling multiple sensor arrays edge to edge so as to form a composite sensor array having an extended surface area.

6. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, further including:

thinning down the wafer (29) from a reverse side (28) thereof so as to remove the bulk of the wafer.

7. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the wafer (20) is pre-thinned prior to providing the electrically conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20).

8. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein providing electrically conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20) includes:

coating the first surface of the wafer (20) with photomask (30) apart from exposed areas where the vias are to be formed; and

implanting the wafer with a material to which the photomask (30) is impervious, so that said material penetrates only the exposed areas and creates a local increase in the conductivity of the wafer to the second surface thereof, thus forming a matrix of conductive vias (31).

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9. The method according to Claim 8, further including:

producing a complementary photomask that covers said area of the wafer on the second surface thereof and is in precise registration with the photomask (30) that is disposed on the first surface thereof.

5 10. The method according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein the wafer is based on silicon and said material is a p-type impurity.

11. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein providing electrically conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20) includes:

10 providing a photomask on the second surface only of the wafer so as to expose the wafer in direct registration with areas on the first surface of the wafer where the vias are to be formed;

partially etching holes through the wafer from the second surface toward the first surface so as to form partial bores; and

filling the bores with conductive material.

15 12. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein providing electrically conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20) includes:

partially etching holes through the wafer from the second surface so as to form partial bores;

20 implanting the wafer from the first surface thereof with a material to which the photomask (30) is impervious, so that said material renders the wafer conductive directly abutting each area where vias are to be formed; and

filling the partial bores with conductive material which abuts the wafer and completes the ohmic contact to the second surface of the wafer.

25 13. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the electrically conductive vias (31) are formed in the wafer (20) prior to formation of the processing circuits by:

coating the first surface of the wafer (20) with photomask (30) for protecting an area surrounding an intended location of each via, whilst leaving said area exposed; and

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implanting the wafer with a material to which the photomask (30) is impervious, so that said material penetrates only said area and creates a local increase in the conductivity of the wafer from the intended location of each via to the second surface thereof, thus forming a matrix of conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20).

14. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the electrically conductive vias (31) are formed in the wafer (20) prior to formation of the processing circuits by:

coating the first surface of the wafer (20) with photomask (30) for protecting an area surrounding an intended location of each via, whilst leaving said area exposed, and

implanting the wafer with a material to which the photomask (30) is impervious, so that said material penetrates only said area and creates a local increase in the conductivity of the wafer from the intended location of each via through the wafer (20) to the second surface thereof, thus forming a matrix of conductive vias (31) through the wafer (20).

15. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the electrically conductive vias (31) are formed in the wafer (20) prior to formation of the processing circuits by:

providing a photomask on the second surface only of the wafer so as to expose the wafer in direct registration with respective locations on the first surface of the wafer of intended vias,

etching holes through the wafer from the second surface to said locations (24), whilst not etching all the way through the wafer so as to form bores; and

filling the bores with conductive material.

16. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the electrically conductive vias (31) are formed in the wafer (20) prior to formation of the processing electronics by:

partially etching holes through the wafer from the second surface so as to form partial bores;

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implanting the wafer from the first surface thereof with a material to which the photomask (30) is impervious, so that said material penetrates only the intended via and renders the wafer conductive at an exposed area thereof; and

filling the partial bores with conductive material which abuts the wafer and completes the ohmic contact to the second surface of the wafer.

17. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 when dependent on claim 1, wherein depositing the sensor elements includes:

growing amorphous or polycrystalline sensor material on the second surface of the wafer so as to form an array of sensor elements, each having an electrode having a first polarity which is in ohmic contact with a respective one of the conductive vias (31) and such that the exposed surface of the sensor material forms a common electrode having a polarity that is opposite to the first polarity.

18. The method according to any one of Claims 2 to 12 when dependent on claim 2, wherein depositing the sensor elements includes:

growing amorphous or polycrystalline sensor material on the first surface of the wafer so as to form an array of sensor elements, each having an electrode having a first polarity which is in ohmic contact with a respective one of the sensor inputs and such that the exposed surface of the sensor material forms a common electrode having a polarity that is opposite to the first polarity.

19. The method according to any one of Claims 13 to 18, wherein the sensor material and the terminal connections are formed on the wafer (20) prior to formation of the processing circuits (25, 26).

20. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 19, wherein the integrated circuit includes multiple arrays of electronic processing circuits (25, 26) separated by scribe lines and there is further included:

scribing along the scribe lines so as to produce individual sensor chips (40).

21. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 20, further including:

connecting terminal pads (43) metallized on an outer surface of the wafer via bump-bonds (45) to a ceramic board (46) that feeds bump-connections (47) through to surface mounted pins or bores; and

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encapsulating so as to form a module (48).

22. The method according to Claim 21, further including:

mounting several of said modules (48) edge to edge so as to form a two-dimensional sensor (50) of larger surface area than a single module.

5 23. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, when used to fabricate a sensor array for a high energy photon imaging detector.

24. A sensor array or module manufactured according to any one of Claims 1 to 23.

25. A multi-pixel sensor array comprising:

10 a wafer having integrated therein multiple electronic processing circuits (25, 26) each in respect of a respective pixel so as to form an integrated circuit having at least one array of electronic processing circuits (25, 26) each electronic processing circuit having a respective sensor input (24), the sensor array further having a plurality of terminal nodes accessible from a first surface of the wafer for external  
15 connection to respective electronic processing circuits of multiple pixels of power, I/O and control connections,

in respect of each pixel, an electrically conductive via (31) through the wafer (20) extending from the respective sensor input (24) to a second surface (28) of the wafer opposite the first surface, and

20 a layer of sensor material deposited on the second surface of the wafer so as to form an array of sensor elements, so that an unexposed surface thereof forms multiple electrodes each in registration with a corresponding one of the electrically conductive vias (31).

26. A multi-pixel sensor array comprising:

25 a wafer having integrated therein multiple electronic processing circuits (25, 26) each in respect of a respective pixel so as to form an integrated circuit having at least one array of electronic processing circuits (25, 26) each electronic processing circuit having a respective sensor input (24) accessible from a first surface of the wafer, the sensor array further having a plurality of terminal nodes for external

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connection to respective electronic processing circuits of multiple pixels of power, I/O and control connections,

in respect of each terminal node, an electrically conductive via (31) through the wafer (20) extending from the respective terminal node in the sensor array to a  
5 second surface (28) of the wafer opposite the first surface, and

a layer of sensor material deposited on the first surface of the wafer so as to form an array of sensor elements, so that an unexposed surface thereof forms multiple electrodes each in registration with the respective sensor input of a corresponding electronic processing circuit.

10 27. The sensor array according to Claim 25 or 26, being configured for use in a high energy photon imaging detector.

28. The sensor array according to any one of Claims 25 to 27, wherein the sensor material is amorphous or polycrystalline material that is grown on a surface of the wafer.

15 29. A sensor module (48) comprising an encapsulated sensor array according to any one of Claims 25 to 28 including:

terminal pads (43) metallized on an outer surface of the wafer via bump-bonds (45) to a ceramic board (46) that feeds bump-connections (47) through to surface mounted pins or bores.

20 30. A multi-module sensor assembly comprising a plurality of sensor modules according to Claim 29 mounted edge to edge so as to form a two-dimensional sensor (50) of larger surface area than a single module.

31. The sensor array according to any one of Claims 25 to 30, wherein an exposed surface of the sensor material forms a first electrode that is common to all  
25 sensor elements towards which incident photons are directed, and an opposite unexposed surface thereof forms multiple second electrodes each in registration with a corresponding one of the electrically conductive vias.